

The Jewish GailyForward

Elul+Tishrei+Cheshvan 5769/70 ■ September+October 2009

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

The Holidays! @ Herbst Theatre

- Paid Ticket Required
- * Free Ticket Required

ROSH HASHANAH

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18,

7:30 pm Ma'ariv •

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m. Shacharit*
9:30 a.m. Family Services

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

@290 Dolores Street
9:30 a.m. Shacharit

Join Us for Tashlich

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Chrissy Field
2:00-4:00 (Brown Bag)

YOM KIPPUR

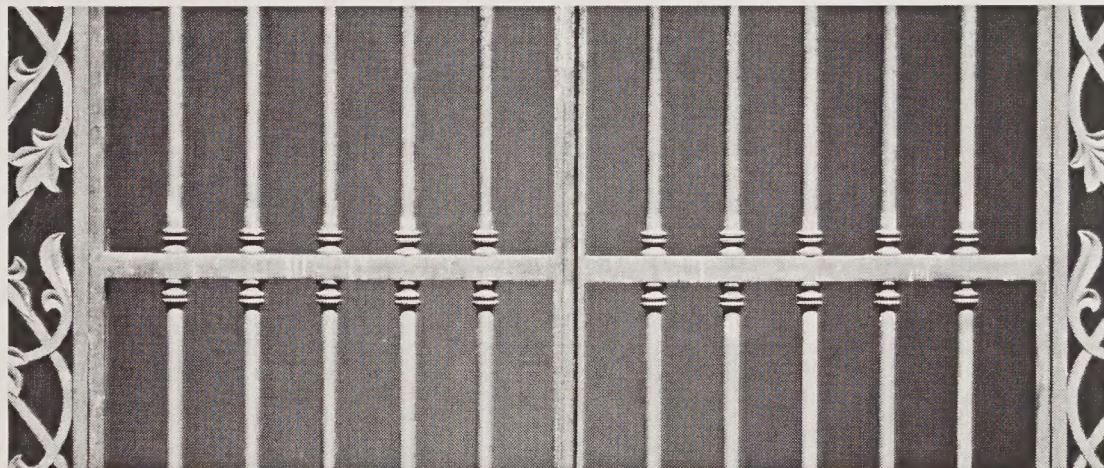
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre •

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m. Shacharit*
9:30 a.m. Family Service
9:30 a.m. Youth Service
1:30-2:30 p.m. Mincha Service
2:30-3:15 p.m. Niggun Service
3:30 p.m. Names Service
3:30-5:15 p.m. Study Sessions
5:30 p.m. Yizkor
6:00 pm Neilah •
~7:30 p.m. Oneg/Breakfast

(continued on page 4)



The Gates Are Closing

BY HOWARD STEIERMANN

I used to think it strange seeing a mezuzah hanging on a doorpost. I wondered why we'd place a talisman, an inanimate object, at the entry of our homes to ward off danger. When I was a little older I thought the mezuzah was tied into the Passover story when G-d passed over homes which had the mark of blood on the doorway. I finally learned that mezuzahs (mezuzot is the plural in Hebrew) actually came from lines in Torah: "And you shall inscribe them on the doorposts of your house and upon your gates." Another Torah portion goes on to explain that this is so "you shall be reminded to observe all My commandments, and to be holy..."

If words on a gate are typically a good thing, how is it that the image of the gates of heaven closing on us at Yom Kippur plays such a huge part in the High Holy Days tradition? How is it that G-d could sit on high, judging us on our past deeds; possibly excluding us from a year of health and happiness, indeed, possibly excluding us from a full year of life?

I was inspired to explore these thoughts thanks to a class the Rabbi recently led focusing on the Unetanneh Tokef prayer. The prayer states that each of us will pass before G-d, being reviewed one by one: our destiny decreed then and there.

The haunting list of our potential fate is written into our Jewish DNA like the memory of losing our childhood pet, or recalling the time a homophobic slur dug in deep rather than bounced off our tough skin. At Sha'ar Zahav, where I am used to lay leaders pairing with professional clergy in ritual life, it is difficult for me to think of a capricious G-d meting out judgments alone. I am hard pressed envisioning an all-knowing and all-seeing deity who is single-handedly composing a list of: "who will live, and who will die...who will die by fire, and who by water; who by war and who by beasts; who by famine, and who by thirst; who by earthquake (that one always gets me, living in San Francisco) and who by disease; who by execution and who by murder."

Please, it's 2009, and I'm supposed to believe a prayer that is saying that there is a "judge on high" and it's my "fault" if any of these calamities happen?! That's not my G-d, that's not my Judaism.

So I was totally thrilled when I learned a story in the class giving context to the Unetanneh Tokef prayer. To paraphrase: approximately 1,000 years ago, Rabbi Amnon was asked by the Bishop of Mainz to convert to Christianity in order that the Rabbi could join his court. Rabbi Amnon initially refused, but then

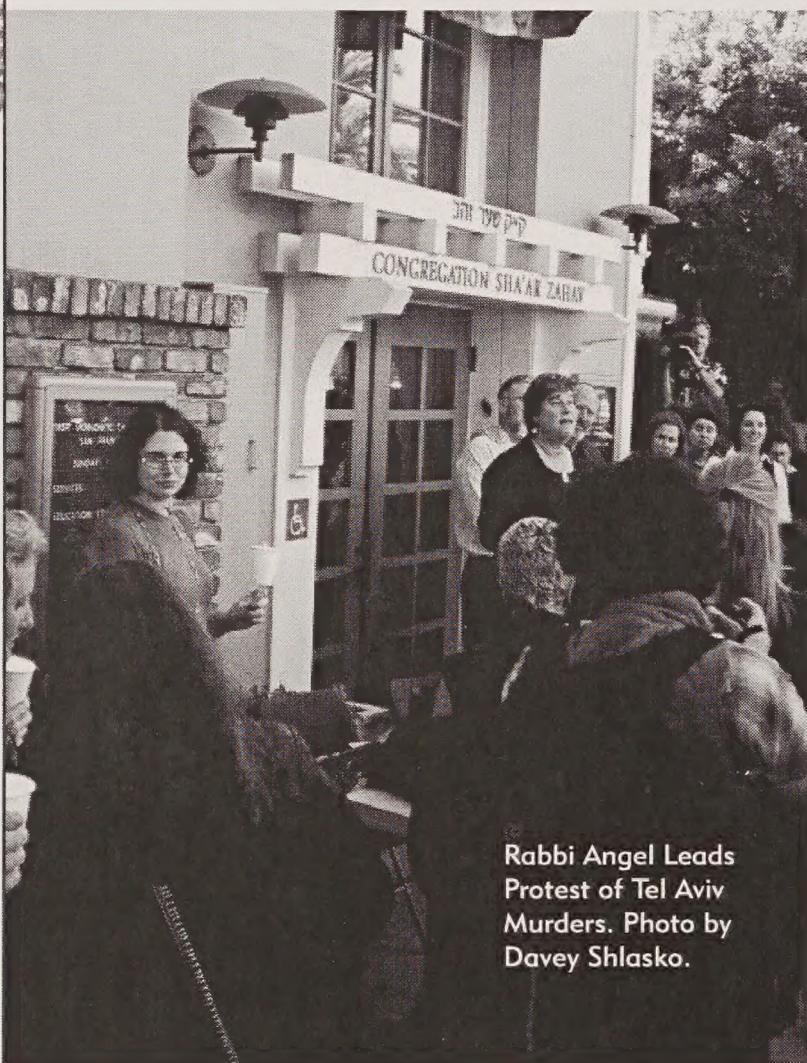
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Rabbi's Study



WHEN RABBI ZUSYA was dying, his friends came to try and comfort him. "Zusya," they said. "Don't worry—in the coming world they will see that you are as great as Abraham, as great as Moses!" "Hush, my friends," said Zusya, "I am not worried that HaShem will ask me 'Why were you not Moses?' I am worried that HaShem will ask me, 'Why were you not Zusya?'"

Another midrash teaches, "Those who reflect on their own conduct add to themselves."



Rabbi Angel Leads
Protest of Tel Aviv
Murders. Photo by
Davey Shlasko.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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The Hebrew term for the verb "to pray" is *le-hitpalel*, which means "to judge oneself," or even "to struggle with oneself." It was Yeats who said that when we argue with others, we create rhetoric, but when we argue with ourselves, we create poetry. That poetry of self-examination is the stuff of which our prayers are made.

The Rabbis' favorite idiom for prayer was "work of the heart"—or "*avodah she'ba-lev*, service of the heart." Prayer, though very difficult, is but a reflection of the search that is Jewish life. Jewish prayer, like Jewish life is about spiritual growth. It is about wonder, about awe. It recognizes our fear, and our fear of fearing. It demands work, but not absolute or unthinking submission. Prayer respects and validates our struggle, and claims that, as we confront ourselves—what we are proud of and what we most desperately wish to change—we do the most important work in human life. Ultimately, prayer—like all Jewish life—validates much of who we are, and insists that with effort and with some fortune we can become even more thoughtful and more caring human beings, inching ever closer to the expression of God's image that is at the very foundation of each and every one of us.

My belief in the ability to effect positive change is absolute. Each of us CAN become more. My prayer is that we make the time to really take an accounting of where we are and of who we are in relation to our true self. *Im tirzu, ayn zo agada: If you will it, it is no dream. It is vision.*

May this season bring us closer to one another and to the One, who connects us in every direction, throughout time.

May you be inscribed in the book of life for year of good health and healthcare reform.

Wanted: Acts of Justice



LAST YEAR, in my Rosh Hashanah column, I mused about why High Holy Day services are so important to Jews. Why do we ensure that at least Erev Rosh Hashanah and Kol Nidre are on our calendars, year after year? I offered the following motivations:

We come because of deep childhood connections to the holidays.

We come to reflect and be inspired by the ritual, by our clergy and lay leaders, by the drashes. The opportunity for reflection on life speaks to us.

We come ... just in case. All that talk about the Book of Life, the doors closing. There's an ineffable mystery at work and we're covering our bases. Just in case.

It has nothing to do with ritual—it's about community. There's comfort and joy in sitting with the same people, in being among friends. In being in community.

We each feel validation and inclusion as a Jew. We especially like that Sha'ar Zahav allows us to be both queer and Jewish. Maybe the rest of the year, we don't live a particularly Jewish life, but this once-a-year shot of Judaism is satisfying.

This year, I'd like to add another reason we make attending a priority:

We come to experience renewal, rededication, to reflect and consider how the coming year can be even more satisfying to us.

This past year has been an extraordinary year. A year of the promise of change—and a year of actual change. President Obama has certainly insured that. As I write this, a wise Latina has just been confirmed as our newest Supreme Court Justice. This past year, we dove into politics—in the presidential election, in the Prop 8 battle, and in ensuring that health care is increasing available to all in San Francisco. Many of us got married—and in the wake of the Prop 8 decision, one of us testified before the Assembly Judicial Committee in support of Sha'ar Zahav member Senator Mark Leno's bill to extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage to all couples who marry—no matter in which state.

So what now? At a vigil led by Rabbi Angel for the two youth who were slain in an attack on the LGBT Community Center in Tel Aviv, Rabbi Angel exhorted us to commit ourselves to an act of justice, to do something positive in the names of the victims. Rabbi Angel suggested donating time or money to LGBT community organizations in Israel or at home. Admirable actions indeed—and suggestions which I hope we all take to heart and act upon.

But how do we carry that motivation forward throughout the year? I would suggest that it's by dedicating some of our efforts to something we feel passionate about. Yes, immersing oneself in ballroom dancing could be great—but, more Jewishly, I'm thinking about *tikkun olam*, about something which in its own way—great or small—can affect and improve the lives of others. It could be through the work of SFOP, it could be making time to study and teach with Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer in our *Galei Limudim* program. It could be working to facilitate our Adult Education program, becoming a b'nei mitzvah mentor, or volunteering regularly at Project Open Hand or the SF Food Bank. There are so many possibilities.

I know, I know. I'm too busy, you're too busy, we're all too busy. But it's important. And good for the soul. You know your passions. Just figure it out and do it! Let 5770 be a truly fabulous year for each of us.

L'Shanah Tovah.

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What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

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CSZ will participate in The San Francisco Food Bank's High Holiday Food Drive. Bins will be provided in the lobby of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav. Donations of non-perishable canned/packaged food will be greatly appreciated.

The Holidays Are Not Over!

Selichot Service

Saturday, September 12, 8:00 pm
For centuries, Jews have gathered in synagogues on Saturday evening near Rosh Hashanah to prepare for the sacred season of self-scrutiny and renewal with a service called Selichot, "forgiveness." We will begin with Havdalah, marking the end of Shabbat, and will continue with a moving service. Explore High Holiday musical and religious themes as they touch our emotions and move us toward self-judgment and new resolutions. This hour of worship is one of the most inspiring of the year.

Kever Avot v'Imahot (Hills of Eternity Cemetery)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Please join us for a brief service at the graveside of friends and family who are buried in our synagogue cemetery. Services will be led by Sha'ar Zahav member Paul Cohen and Rabbi Angel. Food and shared memories will follow services.

Sukkot

Stay Tuned!

Simchat Torah

Stay Tuned!

EVENTS

CSZ Sponsored JFCS Tenderloin Outreach Luncheon (offsite)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 12:45 PM

Come join Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and CSZ members in a special mitzvah as CSZ sponsors JFCS's Tenderloin Outreach luncheon for seniors. Rabbi Angel will conduct a brief service then we will serve lunch and schmooze with the participants. If you would like to join us please contact Florence at 415-468-3237.

Israeli LGBT Activism

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009, 8:45 PM

Nethanel Lipshitz (member of Jerusalem Open House and Havruta, a growing group of religious Israeli LGBT people) will speak about Israeli LGBT activism in recent years, and future goals in light of the recent tragedy in Tel Aviv and other current events.

LGBT People Creating Families

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009, 11:00 AM

This event is free and open to all LGBT people considering or planning to create families, with practical information on how to navigate the legal hurdles involved. There will be a particular focus on domestic newborn adoption possibilities. Presented by Attorneys Susan Romer and Charlie Spiegel.

COMMITTEES

CSZ-SFOP Organizing Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Join with other Sha'ar Zahavniks in building relationships and in pursuing justice. We have just completed a cycle of house meetings in which we have listened to one another's deeply felt concerns. We will now reflect on what we've heard, and strategize about what actions we will take next. All are welcome to join, as we build a relationship with our new SFOP organizer, Andrea Marta. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff vinicoff@hotmail.com, or come to the meeting!

Communications Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 9, 6:45 pm

Wednesday, October 14, 6:45 pm

This committee focuses on how we communicate about Sha'ar Zahav to ourselves and others. We are currently in the process of rethinking our website, our use of social networking (facebook/twitter), advertising, and our print brochures. We need people who care about Sha'ar Zahav to help us understand what our best message is. And we need people with concrete skills: Have you worked in publishing, marketing, or advertising? Are you a webmaster or digital guru? We need you! Questions? Contact Jo Ellen Green Kaiser, jgkaiser@earthlink.net

Welcoming Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

All are invited to join this vibrant, revitalized group as we work to make Sha'ar Zahav the most welcoming environment, to both new and longstanding members. Have an idea that you want to contribute? Simply want to build community amongst fantastic people? Come! Please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com, or Marty Rawlings-Fein, martin@afeinmess.com for more details.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 6:45 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6:45 PM

The Va'ad is the board of the congregation-we are responsible for the financial security and ongoing well-being of the institution. All are welcome to attend and listen to our monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

CSZ Ritual Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

We invite all CSZ members to attend meetings of the Ritual Committee. If you have great ideas about CSZ's services for Shabbat, holidays, or lifecycles, or want to get involved, we want you to join us! You don't have to be a service leader, or have any particular Jewish background. We're looking for creative thinkers and energy to make our ritual life better and better. Our meeting begins with a Ma'ariv service.

CHAVUROT

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

We invite your entire family and your friends (non-members warmly welcomed) to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah. Our evening begins with a vegetarian/vegan potluck as we share blessings and check in, while singing, eating, and enjoying each other's company. At around 7:30, adults (and teens) are invited to continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. We invite parents of young children to take advantage of our childcare during this time. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jim Greenberg, jgj@earthlink.net.

Post Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, ~9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join us as we continue the shabbat day at a local restaurant after the Oneg. All Ages, All Sexual Orientations, All Genders, All Ethnicities, All Relationship Statuses Welcome! For more information about this group you can contact Jim Acerra at jacerra@msn.com. or Tony Enriquez at arnold_enriquez@hotmail.com. Please meet in the Social Hall/Oneg Room after services.

CLASSES

Introduction to Judaism - 3rd Trimester

BEGINS MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Taught by Rabbinical Intern Reuben Zellman

Whether you are brand new to Judaism or a veteran who wants to fill in your knowledge, we welcome you to explore Judaism in our diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all sexual and gender identities. The course is open to people of all faiths and backgrounds. Bring your partners and friends! The course will cover holidays, sacred texts, ethics, history, customs, beliefs, the lifecycle, social justice and more, in an environment that encourages your questions and perspectives.

Field trips, Shabbat dinner and other experiences will be part of the course. All are encouraged to join us regardless of ability to pay. Inquire within the office for pro-rated costs. For questions, to register, or to confidentially discuss payment, contact Reuben, reuben@shaarzahav.org, 415-861-6932 x306; or Shaun, shaun@shaarzahav.org, 415-861-6932 x304.

Jews and Money With Saul Friedman

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 7:00 PM

Since ancient times, Jewish texts have ruminated on how to conduct oneself in the worldly realm of human affairs. Saul Friedman, a doctoral candidate in Talmud at UC Berkeley, deconstructs this taboo topic with a look at approaches to material wealth from the Talmud and beyond.

The Gates Are Closing

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under pressure, agreed to consider. He immediately regretted giving the Bishop even the slightest idea that he would actually consider converting. Upon hearing the Rabbi's refusal, the Bishop tortured him near death. The Rabbi was brought back to his community just a few days before Rosh Hashanah. With his last breaths, Rabbi Amnon recited the *Unetanneh Tokef* prayer to the congregation. His words have been part of the High Holy Day liturgy ever since.

A light bulb went off, cartoon-like above my head! The *Unetanneh Tokef* prayer isn't simply a harsh reflection of the Ultimate Judge. Rather, it is the final (and lasting) teaching of a great Rabbi and Torah scholar. I think that Rabbi Amnon's lesson pointed out that things will happen. Some people will live through the next year, and some people will die. There will be fires, floods, wars and earthquakes. We can live our lives in anguish, afraid of what tomorrow will bring. Or, we can live our lives in the best way we know how, doing the right thing, caring for ourselves, caring for others, while the earth continues to rotate on its axis.

Perhaps you're familiar with the refrain found in the machzor: *U-t'shu-va U't'fi-la U-tze-da-ka Ma-a-vi-rin et ro-ah ha-g'zei-ra*. "But Repentance, Prayer and Charity Avert the severe decree."

In the class we discussed at length whether it is the decree that is averted, or the severity of the decree. And what is repentance? What is Prayer? What is Charity?

To me, repentance starts with our being introspective: trying to understand how it is that we missed the mark.

It has been suggested that prayer is a time of self-reflection. And charity can be described as acts of justice.

Some classmates suggested that our fate is our fate. But it is the severity of our fate that hangs in the balance. If G-d has predetermined our fate, why do we race against the clock up to the end of the *N'ilah* service (when tradition says the Gates of Heaven are closed)? And, if G-d is going to close the Gate on me, do I really want to be part of this seemingly arbitrary and perhaps arcane system?

All these years that I've been assuming that the closing gates were a metaphor for exclusion, I've been seeing it the wrong way. G-d is not imploring us to be good all year so that during the period between Rosh Hashanah when "it is written" and Yom Kippur when "it is sealed" we end up with a gold star next to our names. Rather, we're being encouraged to be introspective, reflective and to perform acts of justice so that the world becomes a better place. And in doing so, perhaps we're partnering with G-d to keep us protected. Encircled within gates of protection, not kept out by gates of exclusion.

Nowadays, when I see a mezuzah, it serves as a reminder. It reminds me that I won't always observe the commandments and be holy. However, if I strive to do better, that would be a good thing. A mezuzah reminds me to take time from my busy life and count my blessings, think of those who are in need of healing and send good thoughts their way. And, it reminds me to do for others what they cannot do for themselves. In these ways I will be living my life the best I can, and hopefully helping others do the same.

I pray to be sealed with each of you for a year of growth, health and happiness.

Self-Study



SHALOM!

By the time you read this, our year will be in full swing! I am looking forward to seeing the new and familiar faces of your children and working with our fabulous teachers. I am excited about the meaningful experiences we will share at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer (BSPM) this year.

This is the time of year that we tend to do *t'shuvah* (literally, turning back). We look back over the past year and we evaluate how we did, where we hit the mark, and where we fell short. Over this summer, the BSPM Children's Education Board and I embarked on similar process for our school. The process led us to survey families, both through computer software and via intimate face to face or phone interviews. We asked what was important to you about Jewish education and what you hoped your children would receive from their Jewish education.

Here were some of our families' goals for their children's Jewish education:

- *Self identify themselves as Jewish. Have a positive experience with being Jewish. To know that they are part of a living tradition. Have ownership over their own Jewish identity.*
- *Have an intellectual and emotional foundation for Judaism if and when they want to access it.*
- *Want child to find his/her place for plugging into Judaism, for example, through music or art.*
- *Clearly identify with the social justice values taught at Sha'ar Zahav.*
- *Build knowledge about history, service, prayers, holidays, language and Jewish ethics. Understand the meaning and history of ritual practice. Build a strong base so children can continue education beyond the Bnei Mitzvah.*
- *Develop an understanding of the larger and practice significance of ritual. Desire for them to observe Shabbat and holidays and live a congregational life.*
- *To be open and knowledgeable about all faiths; not put labels on them.*
- *Have a connection with God.*

- Ability to address issues that arise around religious and racial identity.
- To have confidence in their ideas.
- Promote social development of our children, enrich their self-identity.
- Deepened connection with Israel.
- To become a *mensch* and see how to live that way

A key component of doing *t'shuvah* is listening. We spent a considerable amount of time listening to you back in the Spring with the intention of fulfilling your goals for your child's Jewish education. Towards that end, I would like to address some of the ways in that we hope to fulfill these expectations.

Make Religious education both fun and meaningful.

This year we will embark on many trainings as a staff to both imbue all our lessons with content but also with *ruach* (spirit). We promise that you will see more moving, acting and active learning at BSPM then you could shake a white board eraser at. We realize that all students learn differently and we promise to provide mediums for all students to actively engage in the classroom

Provide students with opportunities to talk about their soul, their own G-d image and encourage them to critically think and share their thoughts.

There are no wrong answers at BSPM, there are only good questions. Teachers have planned engaging lessons that encourage questions, questions about the material covered, questions about how their teachers and classmates think, and questions about how it is that we do this intentional and demanding act of *Tikkun Olam*, repairing the world. Social Justice isn't just a element of our curriculum, it is our curriculum because that is the core of Jewish education. Studying Torah is *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world), learning about Jewish history, learning about the Jewish cycle and *middot* (Jewish values) are all *Tikkun Olam*. We teach our students that it isn't enough to know, you must also do. Between know and do, we feel confident that our students will get

some fire under their tushes to become Menschs and change the world.

Build our curriculum on the foundations of Torah and Jewish history.

We are excited about the work we are doing this year, and look forward to your continued comments and feedback. *Shavua tov*, may you have a good and sweet year!

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

- 12 Shabbat Class
Daniel Fishman-Engel's Bar Mitzvah
Begin Unit- Holiness
- 16 Wednesday Class
- 18 Erev Rosh Hashanah
- 19 Rosh Hashanah - No Shabbat Class
- 22 Spiritual Quest Class with Rabbi
- 23 Wednesday Class
- 26 Shabbat Class—Parent Orientation
- 27 Kol Nidre
- 28 Yom Kippur
- 30 Wednesday Class

OCTOBER

- 3 Shabbat Class
Joanie Shalit's Bat Mitzvah
- 4 Sukkah Celebration 4-6
- 6 Spiritual Quest Class with Rabbi
- 7 Wednesday Class
- 10 Shabbat Simchat Torah
Consecration
- 13 Spiritual Quest Class with Rabbi
- 14 Wednesday Class
- 16 Class Potlucks
- 17 Shabbat Class
Sophie Rinkoff-Murland's Bat Mitzvah
- 20 Spiritual Quest Class with Rabbi
- 21 Wednesday Class
- 24 Shabbat Class
Miriam Heath Katz's Bat Mitzvah
- 27 Spiritual Quest Class with Rabbi
- 28 Wednesday Class
- 31 Shabbat Class—Celebration of Learning
Begin unit— Jewish Journeys
Parent Orientation

FAMILY CALENDAR

Questions? Contact Educator Rebecca Weiner at rebecca@shaarzahav.org or 415-861-6932 x302.

Friday Night Live

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 6:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 6:00 PM

Designed for children 0 to 6 years, but all welcome as Isaac Zones and Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe lead us on a dancing, singing, stomping, laughing Shabbat. Pizza dinner provided.

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 6:00 - 9:00 PM

All are welcome to share Shabbat with us. We begin with a vegetarian potluck, blessings and check in. At 7:30, adults (and teens) study Torah while younger kids have childcare.

Shabbat Simcha

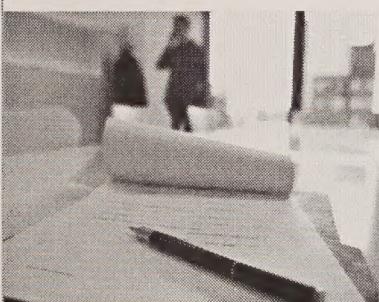
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 10:15-12:45 AM

Join us for this exciting new program of Shabbat prayer, learning, and noshing. The morning will feature a learner's prayer service, learning tracks, and conclude with a Shabbat lunch. Please note that this program takes the place of BPSM classes and that students and parents are expected to participate along with Sha'ar Zahav congregants.

Galei Limudim

Adults! Become a Member of our Galei Limudim, or Learning Waves. A small group of 4-7 adults, both parents and non-parents, join together to study and then present a topic to one class of Beit Sefer. Previous participants have found this project a way to increase their Jewish learning, build community with other adults, discover more about the school, and connect with the children. For more information, contact Rebecca Weiner, 415-861-6932 x302

Personal Attention. Thoughtful Litigation.



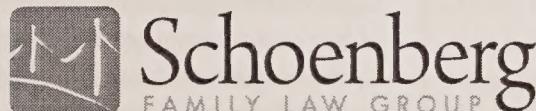
At the Schoenberg Family Law Group, we recognize that a family law matter — whether occurring in a traditional or alternative family setting — is one of the most difficult life challenges that you may face. The resolution of these issues will have a lasting impact on your children, finances, and family structure.

We work with other professionals — psychologists, accountants, appraisers — to ensure that complex and sensitive issues are resolved in a comprehensive way. Our unwavering commitment to excellence shows in our results — whether by vigorous negotiation or powerful litigation — we consistently deliver the finest legal services to our clients in all family law matters.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Divorce
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- Separation
- Property and Pension Distribution
- Alimony
- Custody
- Visitation
- Child Support
- Restraining Orders
- Paternity
- Pre-Marital Agreements
- Post-Divorce Disputes
- Modification of Orders
- Appeals

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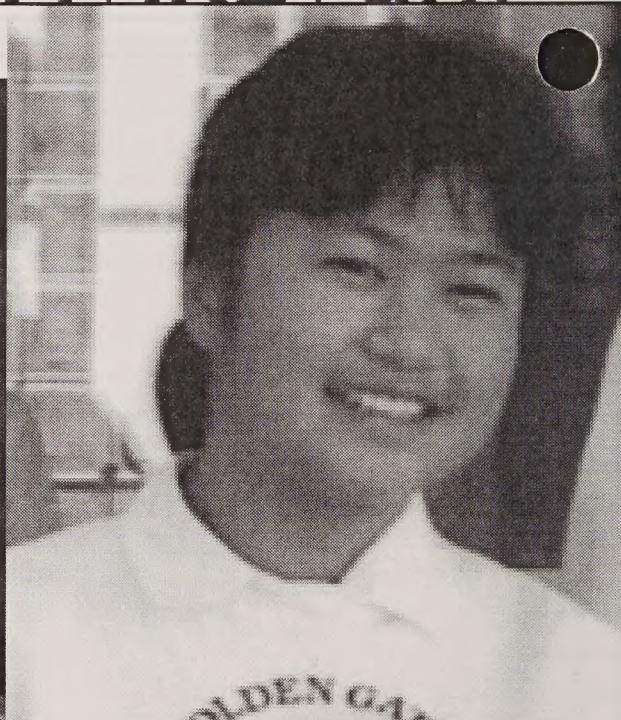
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Introducing the Bnei Mitzvah!

DANIEL FISHMAN-ENGEL

Daniel Fishman-Engel will be called to the Torah as a Bar Mitzvah on September 12, 2009, which just so happens to be his 13th birthday on the Jewish calendar. A seventh grader this year at San Francisco Day School, Daniel's favorite subjects are math, science, and showing magic tricks to his friends. He also enjoys playing violin, composing music on the computer, and playing tennis. In the 2009 Maccabi Games, Daniel participated on the tennis team as a member of Team San Francisco.

In addition to school, violin, tennis, and magic, Daniel is committed to community service. Since kindergarten, he has participated annually in music concerts at retirement and nursing homes. Daniel has also been a regular pulling weeds on workdays at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park and has volunteered for the San Francisco Food Bank. He intends to continue his community service work



throughout his life.

Daniel has been attending services at Sha'ar Zahav since he was an infant. He has been very fortunate to attend

Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer where he found a community of Jewish peers as well as a wonderful array of teachers over the past several years, including his Hebrew tutors, Ilia, Nili, and Elana, his Bar Mitzvah mentor, Randy Weiss and his drash mentor, Andrew Ramer. He would like to thank all of these people as well as Rabbi Angel, the rest of the Sha'ar Zahav community, his family, his friend, Joe Pon, and his violin teacher, Calvin Murasaki, for helping to make everything possible.

JOANIE SHALIT

Joanie Shalit was born in China and adopted by her moms at age 5 months. She is a 7th grade student at Presidio Hill School in San Francisco.

Joanie is an accomplished violinist who plays with the Golden Gate Philharmonic, a youth orchestra. She is also first violinist in a string quartet, The Quarter Notes. As such, she has performed numerous concerts and solo performances. She attended music camp at Cazadero Performing Arts Camp for the past three summers. Part of her community service for her upcoming bat mitzvah on October 3, was performing with the Quarter Notes at several San Francisco retirement homes.

Joanie also adores animals, including her cats. For much of the summer,



Andréa D. Guerra Photography

B'nei Mitzvahs, Weddings, Civil Ceremonies,
and other life cycle events

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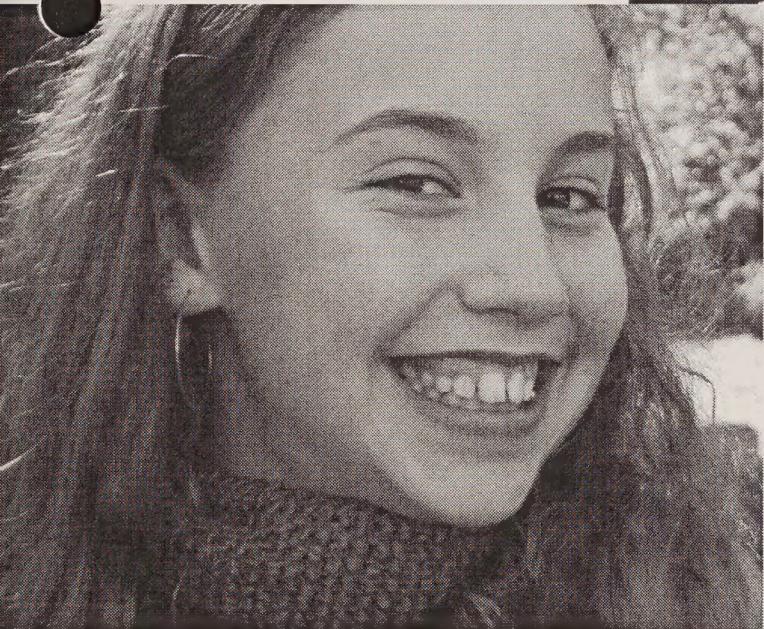
Joanie has volunteered at the S.F. Zoo, where she has assisted young visitors by teaching them about the animals. Her favorite animals to display are the ferret, chinchilla and the Blue-fronted Amazon parrot.

Joanie attended Beit Seifer Phyllis Mintzer for eight years, and is well-prepared for her upcoming bat mitzvah ceremony. She would particularly like to thank her mentor, Ray Bernstein, who has personally guided her Torah studies for the past year.

SOPHIE RINKOFF-MURLAND

My name is Sophie Rinkoff-Murland, and I will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah on October 17th. My parsha is B'reisheit.

I am in eighth grade at Hoover Middle School in San Francisco. Ever since kindergarten, I have been attending Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer, although my formal Jewish education actually started



earlier, with Tot Shabbat here at CSZ. Through the efforts of my many amazing teachers (Ila, Kendra and Rebecca), and of course Rabbi Angel, I have learned so much about the history of the Jewish people, our customs and holidays, and about Torah.

In between school, homework, Hebrew school, and hanging out with my friends, I devote most of my free

time to dancing, which is my passion. I take dance classes at Dance Mission 5 days a week, after school. It is my hope to go to the School of the Arts for high school, and my dream is to become a professional dancer.

I would especially like to thank Nili Yosha, my awesome Hebrew teacher, for helping me to learn Hebrew and making our lessons so much fun. I would also like to thank Sue Bojdak, my fabulous

Bat Mitzvah mentor, for helping me through this process and inspiring me with her love of Judaism.

My bat mitzvah project has been volunteering with Chicken Soupers and helping to prepare and pack food for chronically ill, home-bound people. I also volunteered for a year with Team Tzadek. I look forward to continuing to volunteer at Chicken Soupers,

and also to attending the Berkeley Midrasha where I will continue my Jewish education.

MIRIAM HEATH KATZ

Miriam Heath Katz will be called to the Torah on October 24, 2009. Her Torah portion, Noach, is perfect for her. At 14 months she fell in love with dogs, and she has been an animal "whisperer" ever since. After she saw *The Lion King* at age two, she fell in love with all cats, large and small. At 6 she fell in love with horses; they have been her primary love ever since. This summer she cleaned stables to "pay" for weekly riding lessons.

The highlight of Miriam's summer was working on the Nature Trail at the San Francisco Zoo, introducing throngs of small children and their parents to a wide variety of small animals—newts and frogs, bunnies and guinea pigs, ferrets and chinchillas, turtles and tortoises, owls and parrots. At home, Miriam has two cats and a goldfish. If her moms would let her, she would have a couple of dogs, more fish, some hamsters, and a horse or two in the back yard!

Miriam and her family wish to thank Drew Parker-Rose, her mentor, who has worked tirelessly with her to reach the day of her bat mitzvah. Many thanks also to Andrew Ramer, her drash mentor. Rabbi Angel, Sue Bojdak and Rebecca Weiner provided leadership for her studies, and her many Beit Seifer teachers have made sure she learned both the content and meaning of the Torah. To each of these we extend our deep gratitude.

AIDS Fund

Jonathan Funk in memory of David Shaber.

Arnie Jackson in memory of mother, Toby Jackson.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

Joel & Melody Funk in memory of Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk.

Jonathan Funk & John Arnold in memory of Judy Davis.

Jonathan Funk in memory of Alan Harap.
in honor of Esther Saslafsky's 95th Birthday.
in memory of his uncle, Joseph Wiseman.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of his grandmother, Perel Berenstein.
in memory of his grandmother, Sadie Radetsky.
in memory of Alex Konski, David Kotch, Ernie Weinstein, Jay Feinstein.

Lucy Bernholz & Paula Fleisher in memory of Marvin Sinkoff.

James Carlson in honor of Steve Weiner's milestone "birthday".
in memory of Martin Cymrot.

Henry Carrey in memory of his zyede, Shloyme Postalov.
in memory of his mother, Leyke Post Carrey.

Rob Daroff & Brian Nagai in gratitude to the congregation.

Marci DeLeon & Sean Patrick Murphy
Paul & Victoria Ehrlich

Robert & Claire Gilson a congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Rob Daroff & Dr. Brian Nagai.

Rose Katz in memory of Sadie Katz.

Elinore & Carl Kinczel to honor Emma Pines-Schwartz for the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah.

Sherie Kosover in memory of Myrna Silverstein.

Mark Leno in memory of Douglas Jackson.

Ron Lezell in memory of Martin Cymrot.

Gerry Llamado & Arthur Slepian in honor of Emma Pines-Schwartz's bat mitzvah.

Nancy Meyer in honor of the Shabbat Ruach team: Deborah, Isaac & Daniel.

Alan Michels & Laureen Kim in honor of Joe Hample on the occasion his ordination.

Ellen Murland in memory of her aunt, Jeanette Klein.

Gerald Rosenstein

Charney, Leff and Post Families in memory of Seth Charney.

Naomi Sunshine & Jill Szuchmacher in honor of Reuben for officiating at their daughter, Hannah's Brit Bat.

Jon Utterlinde

Marc Wernick

Ami Zusman in honor of Emma Pines-Schwartz's Bat Mitzvah.

High Holiday Pledges 5769

Deena Lahn & Mary Schroeder

Mark Leno

Daniel McGoldrick

Sybil Meyer & Mary Anne Ruyle

Drew Parker-Rose

High Holiday Pledges 5770

Gerald Rosenstein

Library Fund

Neil Hart in memory of Peggy Hart.
in memory of David Shaber.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Steve Berlin in honor of Rabbi Angel's courage and leadership on Prop 8.

Ray Bernstein in honor of Rabbi Angel's civil disobedience.

Robert Daroff & Brian Nagai in gratitude to Rabbi Angel.

Neil Hart in memory of Syd Feldman.

Ellen Murland & Barbara Rinkoff in memory of Ellen's cousin, Steve Goldstein.

in memory of Barbara's father, Howard S. Rinkoff.
Sharyn Saslafsky & Liz Kantor in honor of Jon Funk & John Arnold's 25th anniversary.

Rainbow Fund 5769

Alvin Baum

Steve Berlin in honor of Paul Cohen & Bob Guterman.

Robert Bernardo

Ellie Cohen & Miki Goralsky

Donald Fischer

Clarissa Kripke & Gail Ludwig

Ida Kuluk

Nancy Levin

Andrew Schwartz & John Mark Eggerton

Social Action Fund

Judah Rosen in memory of Abraham David Shaber.

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★To remember a loved one
★To honor friends and family
★To support the CSZ community

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 Abie S. Lynette.*

12/13

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 honor of their 26th wedding anniversary.*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Jay Davidson *In honor of his 40th an-
 niversary of moving to San Francisco.*

19/20

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Brad Post and Paul Cohen *In honor of
 Susan Leff leading services for the first
 time.*

26/27

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
In appreciation of Reuben Zellman
 Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
The Mensch Group *In honor of Pride
 and the welcoming of the Siddur.*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Spon-
 sored by **Reuben Zellman** *With love
 and gratitude to Congregation Sha'ar
 Zahav.*

July**10/11**

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by
Tim Detmers *In memory of his grand-
 mother, Viva Eckel.*

17/18

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
 by **James Carlson** *In memory of his
 mother, Jan Tuzzolino.*

31/Aug. 1

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored
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 for the kindness of the CSZ community,
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 and Beth & In memory of Sadie Katz.*

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 Email: DGellman@g3mh.com

Sha'ar Zahav

Elul-Tishrei 5769/70

SEPTEMBER 2009

12 ELUL	13 ELUL	14 ELUL	15 ELUL	16 ELUL
6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal 7:00 pm High Holidays 101	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal 7:00 pm Welcoming com	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal 7:00 pm Communications Com
17 ELUL	18 ELUL	19 ELUL	20 ELUL	21 ELUL
6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal
24 ELUL	25 ELUL	26 ELUL	27 ELUL	28 ELUL
6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Intro to Judaism	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 6:45 pm Va'ad meeting
2 TISHREI	3 TISHREI	4 TISHREI	5 TISHREI	6 TISHREI
9:30 am Rosh Hashanah 2nd day Service (CSZ)	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal	6:30 pm Ma'ariv service 7:00 pm Chorus rehearsal
9 TISHREI	10 TISHREI	11 TISHREI	12 TISHREI	13 TISHREI
10:00 am Cemetery Service 7:30 pm Kol Nidre (Herbst)	9:30 am Yom Kippur morning service (Herbst)	9:30 pm Ma'ariv service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service	9:00 am Torah Study 10:15 am Shabbat Service
9 TISHREI	10 TISHREI	11 TISHREI	12 TISHREI	13 TISHREI
10 TISHREI	11 TISHREI	12 TISHREI	13 TISHREI	14 TISHREI
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14 TISHREI	15 TISHREI	16 TISHREI	17 TISHREI	18 TISHREI
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14 TISHREI	15 TISHREI	16 TISHREI	17 TISHREI	18 TISHREI
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14 TISHREI	15 TISHREI	16 TISHREI	17 TISHREI	18 TISHREI

Life Cycles

Mazel tov to **Zachary Patchell**, who was called to the bimah on the occasion of his becoming a Bar Mitzvah on Saturday, May 30.

Yashir Koach to **Rebecca Botelho**, daughter of **Judith Cohen**, who graduated from UCSF with a PhD in Immunology. Her dissertation research was part of the ongoing fight against HIV.

Mazel tov to **Phil Charney** on his recent retirement. As of July 1 Phil retired from his position as dermatologist at Kaiser. Enjoy your new found time Phil!

Jonathan Strober and **David Holt** announce the adoption of their daughter, **Tallulah Grace Strober-Holt**, who was born on April 28, 2009. Mazel Tov!

Naches

Yashir Koach to **Tsipora Prochovnick** will be graduating high school on June 8, as valedictorian of SOTA and SOTA Academy.

Yashir Koach to **Hazel Olson-Dorf**, daughter of **Jenni Olson** and **Julie Dorf**, who is featured in a recent article for her eco-conscious artistic skills.

Yashir Koach to **Shira Zingman-Daniels** was honored as valedictorian of her class at Oakland Technical High School.

Yashir Koach to **Bob Katz** and **Ron Lezell**, both of whom completed the 545 mile AIDS/LifeCycle (ALC) ride from SF to LA (Bob's 11th, Ron's 1st!). Both Bob and Ron raised over \$7,000 for the cause. Bob, an ALC training ride leader and Board Member Emeritus of Positive Pedalers, was honored during the ride, presented the Positive Pedaler's Stand Up award.

Yashir Koach to our Siddur team: **Jo Ellen Green Kaiser**, **Michael Tyler**, and **Leslie Kane**, for heading up the creation of our new, fabulous Siddur! Thank you to all those who contributed prayers and blessings - you brought Siddur Sha'ar Zahav to life!

Thank you to **Paul Cohen**, **Andrew Ramer**, **Marjorie Hilsenrad**, **Howard**

Steiermann, **Alex Ingersoll**, **Martin Tannenbaum**, **Jo Ellen Green Kaiser**, and **Zoe Kaiser** who helped to ship out our many pre-ordered Siddurs.

New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members to the Sha'ar Zahav Community: **Matt Kernkraut** and **Ethan Leavy** **Rachelle Boudreau**

In addition, we welcome back returning member **Nathan Kling**

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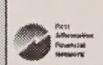
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Condolences

We extend heartfelt condolences to the following CSZ members on the death of their loved ones:

Ellen Murland, on the death of her cousin, Steve Goldstein, and her aunt, Jeanette Klein.

Barbara Rinkoff, on the death of her cousin, Janet Gaby.

Alana Herron, Robert Geller, and Sofia and Rimona Herron-Geller on the death of Robert's brother, Louis Mitchell Geller.

Terry Fletcher, on the death of her cousin, Judy Citron.

Ron Edelman, on the death of his friend, Luke Cole.

Judith Wolfe, on the death of her aunt Eileen Rubens.

Dennis Ybarra, on the death of his friend, Gary Tobin.

Shelli and Marty Rawlings-Fein on the death of their friend, Joe Holt, a long time organizer for the bi community.

Marty Rawlings-Fein, on the death of his aunt, Joan Ashford.

Barbara Cymrot, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, and Amalia Cymrot-Wu on the death of Barbara's father and Ruby and Amalia's grandfather, Martin Cymrot.

And we extend condolences to family and friends on the death of **David Shaber**, a long time member of CSZ and close friend of the community.

Member Yahrzeits

September

- 1 John Golebowski
- 3 Lee Gierson
- 5 Bernard Pechter
- 18 Penny Dachinger
- 22 David Pierce
- 25 Jeffrey Lewis Cohen

October

- 6 Jeffrey A. Miller
- 7 Rabbi Benjamin Marcus
- 12 Andrew Zysman
- 13 Harry Clint Bigglestone
- 18 Henry Mautner
- 18 Duane Kearns Puryear
- 24 Glenn Murray Miller
- 29 Michael Mohr

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Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives.

Where there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

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